



## MONTANA SECRETARY OF STATE

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**LINDA McCULLOCH**

HB 510: Eliminate Annual Absentee Ballot Forms  
Senate Judiciary, RM 303  
March 14, 2013 @ 8 a.m.  
Secretary of State Linda McCulloch's Testimony

STATE SECRETARY  
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3/14/13  
HB 510

Good morning Mr. Chair, members of the Committee. For the record, I am Linda McCulloch, Montana Secretary of State.

My support for this bill echoes what you've heard from the sponsor and counties.

Absentee voting has grown statewide by 45% in the past 12 years. In the 2012 General Election, counties distributed absentee ballots to more than 314,000 voters, and almost 60% of the total votes were cast by absentee ballot.

As of November, there were nearly 250,000 voters on the Annual Absentee List. With counties mailing the address confirmation notices to these voters every other year, instead of every year, we estimate the biennial savings to be around \$100,000.

I urge you to support this bill and a more streamlined absentee ballot application process. I'm here to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.